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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

11 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Development Branch, DFD-DD/P
SUBJECT : Containers for CORONA Payload

1. PROBLEM: The recycling of empty containers (steel boxes, spiders or shipping flanges, braces, and spools) has been a continuing problem area in reordering material from [redacted] To date, we have been able to provide empty containers with refurbished spools on an expedited logistics cycle, but with no margin of comfort. The E-K manufacturing people must have the empties in hand when they commit master rolls to the cutting process. Last spring's loss of 9 CORONA (and 6 ARCON) completely full containers has created an uncomfortable logistics situation. Rather than just ordering a few replacement items, it is time to consider the total problem in light of MURAL and ARCON.

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2. BACKGROUND:

(a) The ARCON program now has all the payload material needed to complete the existing schedule. Some steel cans might be made available for C, M or O if the future of this program was definitely determined. [redacted] has about 25 empty "A" containers in storage and has been given permission to use the steel boxes for "C" if required in an emergency. To do this, however, he would require some extra "C" type braces, spiders, and spools.

(b) FCIC made the original spools and spiders for both "C" and "A." "C" spools are refurbished by ITEX and could be made by them. They have recently made 50 spools of improved design. Spools cost about [redacted] each and spiders cost about [redacted] a pair.

(c) E-K purchased the steel boxes and braces. The steel boxes cost about [redacted] and the braces about [redacted] each.

(d) The MURAL program will require twice as many empty containers, since every test and mission will consume double amounts of material. My original thought, in discussion with [redacted] was to order an additional 75 "C" braces and spools for use with "A" steel boxes as they became surplus.

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Several months of delay have now occurred due to the indecision on the future of the "A" program. In addition, Mr. Kiefer verbally indicated to the SETD (at a meeting in Boston on 29 June 1961) that he would accept a reduction in primary payload and spool size as a weight reduction item to permit installation of the auxiliary frame camera. I personally would hate to see 20 pounds of primary payload taken out to permit installation of the auxiliary camera, but that is another subject. However, I do feel that the weight savings on reduction in spool size would be very little; the main savings would be from payload weight. The question to be asked is do we really have only a two day vehicle for next year? Related here, however, is the design of shipping flanges and spools for the "C" program. "C" and "H" payloads would not be directly interchangeable if the weight reduction program results in smaller spools for "H." Also, if we are going to have an auxiliary frame camera, we need to firm up an acceptable shipping and storage container for these small spools. I believe that standard film cans with good padding in cardboard boxes or shipment of quantity lots in one steel box would suffice.

(e) In passing, I would also like to point out that [redacted] program originally intended to use "C" and "A" boxes when these programs were completed. This may work for quantity orders next fall, but some procurement of "C" boxes and the several sizes of internal brackets and spiders should be considered.

3. RECOMMENDATION:

(a) E-I should be requested to purchase a minimum of 75 internal shipping brackets for the "C" and "H" programs. I believe that the internal brackets will suffice for both "C" and "H" even if the "H" spool becomes smaller. About two months lead time is required if no overtime is involved. (Cost estimated at [redacted])

(b) Itak and SETD be directed to expedite the decision on spools and spiders for the "H" program with quantities made available to [redacted] at least 30 days prior to first testing of the "H" configuration. If the spool remains the same, (and I recommend that it does) an additional quantity of 25 spools and 75 spiders should be ordered. If the size changes, this

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order should be increased to 150. (Cost of 25 spools is estimated at [REDACTED])

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(c) [REDACTED] be authorized to purchase a minimum of 50 steel boxes for the "B" program. Estimated lead time, two months and cost, [REDACTED]. If the "A" program increases this quantity, should be [REDACTED]

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